

Spring Arts Calendar 2012

The Observer's critics pick the season's highlights

DESIGN POP FILM THEATRE ART CLASSICAL DANCE

APRIL

2

POP DR JOHN

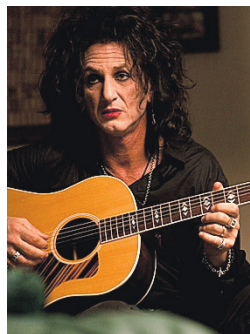
The New Orleans legend decamps to Nashville to record with the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach; excellence ensues on the *Locked Down* LP.

4

ART DAMIEN HIRST

The world's richest living artist enjoys a major survey of more than 20 years of his work, including medicine cabinets, diamond skull (below) and a certain preserved shark. Tate Modern, London until 9 September.

6



FILM THIS MUST BE THE PLACE

Sean Penn (above) plays a retired rock star scouring America for the fugitive Nazi who tormented his father in Auschwitz. Paolo Sorrentino escapes from the art house in his first English-language film.

7

THEATRE WHERE HAVE I BEEN ALL MY LIFE?

Following the success of *London Road*, her verbatim musical at the National, Alecky Blythe documents a local talent show for the New Vic in Newcastle-under-Lyme. Until 28 April.

11

ART HANS-PETER FELDMANN

A retrospective for the German conceptual artist whose work since the 1950s has involved collecting and re-presenting everyday cultural artefacts. Serpentine Gallery, London until 3 June.

DANCE A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

Scottish Ballet unite choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and theatre director Nancy Meckler in a new take on Tennessee Williams's psychodrama. Theatre Royal Glasgow until 14 April, and touring.

12

THEATRE THE RADICALISATION OF BRADLEY MANNING

Before he was a WikiLeaks whistleblower, Bradley Manning was a schoolboy in Wales, and this National Theatre of Wales production is staged in his old Haverfordwest school before transferring to two other Welsh venues. Until 28 April.

13



THEATRE WILD SWANS

Jung Chang's international bestseller charting the incredible lives of three generations of women in China takes to the stage. Young Vic, London until 13 May.

16

CLASSICAL BRUCKNER PROJECT

Daniel Barenboim (conductor) and his Berlin Staatskapelle orchestra return to London for Bruckner's three final symphonies, 7, 8 and 9, paired with Barenboim as soloist in two Mozart piano concertos. At the Royal Festival Hall, London for three nights.

19

DANCE ARTIFACT

Set to the music of Bach and danced here by the impeccable Royal Ballet of Flanders (below) is the subversive new dance master piece of the American choreographer William Forsythe. Sadler's Wells, London until 21 April.



20

THEATRE SEA ODYSSEY

The *Sultan's Elephant* entranced us in 2006; now Royal de Luxe take over Liverpool city centre with 50 foot marionettes (right) for a street spectacular marking 100 years since the Titanic's maiden voyage. Until 22 April.

ART INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF VISUAL ART

More than 130 artists, including 2009 Turner prize-winner Richard Wright, show work over 18 days at Glasgow's biennial visual art festival, now in its fifth edition. Until 7 May.



23

POP JACK WHITE

Jack White's debut solo album *Blunderbuss* is every bit as tremendous as you would hope from this restless former Stripe. There's a new colour scheme – blue – and his touring outfit (coming to the UK 21–24 June) features one all-male band and an all-female counterpart. The album, though, doesn't need gimmicks to sell it. Replete with waltzes, ballads, pianos, bravura guitar solos and troublesome women, it finds the newly divorced White on energetic, mischievous form.

25

ART OUT OF FOCUS

Major show featuring 38 photographers, including Ryan McGinley, Mat Collishaw, John Stezaker and Yumiko Utsu, who challenge the received rules of the medium. Saatchi Gallery, London until 22 July.

27

FILM ALBERT NOBBS

In a role she created on stage 30 years ago, Glenn Close (below) plays a cross-dressing hotel waiter in Victorian Dublin. Close also co-wrote the script with novelist John Banville. Both she and Janet McTeer were Oscar-nominated for the film.



28

CLASSICAL MONTEVERDI'S VESPERS 1610

The great Italian choral masterpiece associated with St Mark's, Venice takes over the galleries and balconies of Kelvingrove Art Gallery in Glasgow for full spatial effect. The Dunedin Consort hold court.

MAY

1

CLASSICAL VALE OF GLAMORGAN FESTIVAL

Taking place in spring not autumn for the first time, this contemporary music festival celebrates Gavin Bryars, Philip Glass at 75 and more, across several venues in Cardiff. Until 11 May.

2



THEATRE THE REST IS SILENCE

Site-specific company dreamthinkspeak kick off this year's Brighton festival with a "meditation on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*". Expect labyrinthine adventure. Malthouse Estate Warehouse, Shoreham until 27 May.

3

DESIGN BAUHAUS: ART AS LIFE

A big show of a big school: before the Nazis closed it down, the Bauhaus led the way in defining modern architecture, design and art. Barbican, London until 10 August.



6

POP GRIMES

Canadian synth darling Claire Boucher (right) brings her *Visions* album – already one of the year's most talked-about – out to play in Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, London and Manchester. Until 10 May.



8

THEATRE BABEL

Wildworks, the Cornish creators of last year's acclaimed Port Talbot production of *The Passion* starring Michael Sheen, stage an outdoor event inspired by the biblical story of Babel. A collaboration with four London theatres involving 500-plus people, this epic show explores what happens when the scattered tribes are called back. Caledonian Park, London N1 until 20 May.

10

DANCE SNOW WHITE

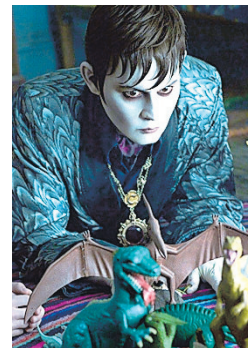
With costumes by Jean Paul Gaultier and music by Mahler, Angelin Preljocaj's darkly adult take on the Grimms' fairytale promises a very sophisticated pleasure indeed. Sadler's Wells, London until 12 May.

POP

THE GREAT ESCAPE

This Brighton powwow has become a nigh-on unmissable appointment with every new band going. Until 12 May.

11



FILM DARK SHADOWS

In Tim Burton's film version of the camp gothic American TV sitcom, an 18th-century vampire (Johnny Depp, above) is unleashed on the year 1972.

12

CLASSICAL LSO AND VALERY GERGIEV

The London Symphony Orchestra and Valery Gergiev brave evening traffic to play Trafalgar Square for the first time with *The Rite of Spring*. "The acoustics will be a challenge," says Gergiev.

16

FILM CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Wes Anderson's new film *Moonrise Kingdom* opens the 65th festival. *The Artist*'s silent march to Oscars success started at Cannes last year – will another winner be unearthed this time round? Until 27 May.

ART

BEDWYR WILLIAMS: MY BAD

Biggest solo show to date for Williams, whose often hilarious work explores the absurdities of life in his native north Wales. At Ikoni, Birmingham until 8 July.



20

ART PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY REOPENS

London's biggest public photography gallery, recently relocated to Oxford Circus, celebrates its £8.9m facelift and extension with an Edward Burtynsky show, until 2 July.

23

THEATRE POSH

Laura Wade's 2010 Royal Court hit about an elitist Bullingdon Club-style dining institution at Oxford University gets a West End transfer to the Duke of York's theatre, London. Until 4 August.

27

CLASSICAL KING PRIAM

A strong season at the Brighton festival (from 5 May) culminates in this rare chance to hear Tippett's *King Priam* in concert, performed by the Britten Sinfonia and Brighton Festival Chorus, conductor Sian Edwards.

31

THEATRE WAH! WAH! GIRLS

Love against the odds in London's East End drives Sadler's Wells' Bollywood-style musical at the Peacock theatre, directed by Kneehigh's Emma Rice. Until 23 June.



JUNE

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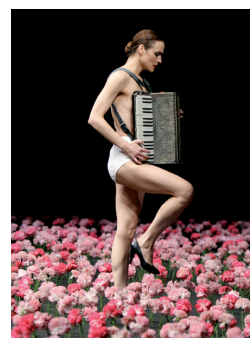
DESIGN SERPENTINE PAVILION

Herzog & de Meuron and Ai Weiwei, the team that gave Beijing its Bird's Nest stadium, reunite to build the latest of the Serpentine's annual pavilions. Until 14 October.

FILM PROMETHEUS; SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN

Beginning of the summer's blockbusters as Ridley Scott's hotly anticipated *Alien* prequel goes head-to-head with the Grimm Brothers reworking.

6



DANCE TANZTHEATER WUPPERTAL PINA BAUSCH

Month-long season of 10 works by the late, great German choreographer, each exploring a different world city. Barbican and Sadler's Wells, London. Until 9 July.

7

CLASSICAL OPERA HOLLAND PARK

Another mouth-watering seven-opera season opens with *Lucia di Lamermoor*. Also includes Gianni Schicchi, Eugene Onegin and the family-friendly *Fantastic Mr Fox* (right). Holland Park, London W8 until 4 August.



8

POP NO DIRECTION HOME

New boutique festival from the End of the Road people bringing sounds to north Notts's Welbeck estate. Richard Hawley, Gruff Rhys and Dirty Three headline. Until 10 June.

15

FILM ROCK OF AGES

This adaptation of the Broadway/West End smash, a musical constructed around rock anthems, stars a bewigged and mostly topless Tom Cruise as fictional headbanger Stacee Jaxx.

POP PLAN B IN THE FOREST

The Forestry Commission lures various artists into the trees every year, but urban crooner Ben Drew is probably the most surprising sylvan songsmith yet. Until 7 July.

18

THEATRE KISS ME, KATE

Trevor Nunn returns to Chichester festival theatre for its 50th anniversary, directing Cole Porter's feisty musical based on *The Taming of the Shrew*. Until 1 September.

19



ART YOKO ONO: TO THE LIGHT

Major London retrospective will include a project called *Smile*, in which Ono (above) invites people worldwide to email a photograph of their own smile. Serpentine, London until 9 September.

21

POP BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

The Boss has never been more pumped than on his recent album. Join his tour – cum-rally. Until 24 June

THEATRE LAKES ALIVE

Les Commandos Percus follow up the arrival of the Olympic torch in Windermere, Cumbria earlier that evening with *On the Night Shift*, a theatrical lakeside fireworks display set to music at Glebe recreation ground.

22

CLASSICAL STOUR MUSIC

This tiny 'festival of music in East Kent' held in a beautiful church on the pilgrim route to Canterbury has lured star countertenor Andreas Scholl. Until 1 July.

FILM KILLER JOE

Directed by William "The Exorcist" Friedkin, this dark, pulpy film about a murderous cop (Matthew McConaughey) was the talk of last year's Venice and Toronto festivals.



23

POP RADIO 1'S HACKNEY WEEKENDER

Hackney's famed football fields play host to a 48-hour Premier league of pop. Jay-Z (left) leads the roll call of international talent, with Lana Del Rey, Jack White and Azealia Banks in defence. The cream of British pop, R&B and hip-hop are represented too (Tinie Tempah, Florence Welch, Emeli Sandé). Best of all it's free. Hackney Marshes, London E9 until 24 June.

24

POP NICKI MINAJ

With her *Roman Reloaded* LP fresh out of the blocks, hip-hop's firecracker is set to dazzle London, Birmingham and Manchester. Until 28 May.

25

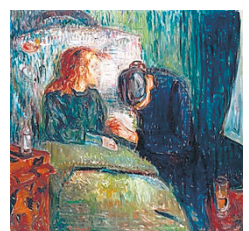
CLASSICAL THE TROJANS

Berlioz's ambitious masterpiece, conducted by Antonio Pappano and director David McVicar, starring Jonas Kaufmann, Anna Caterina Antonacci and Eva-Maria Westbroek. ROH's Olympic-season climax. Until 11 July.

CLASSICAL DR DEE

London premiere at ENO of Damon Albarn's masque-cum-opera about the mysterious Elizabethan magician-philosopher, directed by Rufus Norris with conductor Stephen Hoggins. Until 7 July.

28



ART EDWARD MUNCH: THE MODERN EYE

The Norwegian artist's interest in photography and film-making is brought to the fore in this major reassessment of his work. Tate Modern, London until 14 October.

29

FILM FRIENDS WITH KIDS

In this sophisticated Allenesque New York comedy, actor Jennifer Westfield makes her debut as writer-director, co-starring opposite her long-time partner, *Mad Men*'s Jon Hamm.

Online

You can download our 2012 spring arts calendar as a pdf at: observer.co.uk/new-review